



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

November 27, 2019

District Attorney Todd Spitzer
Office of the District Attorney
401 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Evidence Request

Dear District Attorney Spitzer:

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 21, 2019, regarding the evidence audits conducted by my department.

I recognize the importance of evidence retention, which is why conducting the audits was critically important once the department learned of potential violations. The initial audit was extremely broad and used as a basis for subsequent investigations. The secondary audit was necessary to meet our ethical obligation to identify any global issues regarding evidence booking procedures.

Collectively, both audits have enabled my department to identify areas for improvement, implement corrective measures and create new accountability processes. I am confident the totality of the corrective measures taken by my office and our system of accountability have addressed any continuing evidence booking issues.

In order to meet our shared mission, I believe the best approach to meet the request in your letter is to designate appropriate lead staff from each of our respective departments to work collaboratively and identify those reports that resulted in a criminal case filing.

My staff will be in contact with your office today to discuss the process for moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Barnes".

Don Barnes
Sheriff-Coroner